

CLAIM AMENDMENTS**Claim 1 (original).**

A woodworking machine comprising:

a conductive cutter adapted to cut a workpiece;

a motor adapted to drive the cutter;

a contact detection system electrically coupled to the cutter to impart an electrical signal thereto, where the electrical signal has at least one property, and where the at least one property is changed when a person contacts the cutter, and where the contact detection system is adapted to distinguish contact between the cutter and the person from at least one other event generating a comparable amount of change in the at least one property based on the time during which the change in the at least one property occurs; and

a reaction system adapted to cause a predetermined action to take place upon detection of contact between the person and the cutter by the contact detection system.

Claim 2 (original):

The machine of claim 1, where the at least one property is the voltage amplitude of the electrical signal.

Claim 3 (original):

The machine of claim 2, where the contact detection system is adapted to identify contact between a person and the cutter as a reduction in the voltage amplitude of the signal on the cutter of at least 5% within 100 microseconds.

Claim 4 (currently amended):

The machine of claim 1, where the ~~contact detection system is adapted to detect contact between the cutter and the person based on at least one change in the at least one property that occurs in time during which the change in the at least one property occurs is~~ less than one millisecond.

Claim 5 (currently amended):

The machine of claim 1, where the ~~contact detection system is adapted to detect contact between the cutter and the person based on at least one change in the at least one property that occurs in time during which the change in the at least one property occurs is~~ less than one hundred microseconds.

Claim 6 (original):

The machine of claim 1, where the at least one other event is contact between the cutter and green wood.

Claim 7 (original):

The machine of claim 1, where the predetermined action includes stopping movement of the cutter.

Claim 8 (original):

The machine of claim 7, where the reaction system is configured to stop movement of the cutter within 10 milliseconds after contact between the cutter and the person.

Claims 9-25 (withdrawn).